

**OLD UNION MINISTERS SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**ELDER JERRY R. MILLER**

**LESSON TITLE: EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY**

**LESSON TEXT: 2<sup>ND</sup> PETER 1:12-21**

**Introduction:** The main focus of this lesson will be on the great event recorded in Matthew 17, Mark 9, and Luke 9, which is commonly known as “**The Transfiguration**’. It is obvious from the lesson text that the Apostle Peter was making reference to such when he made reference to those who were; **EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY**.

As I began preparing this lesson, I soon realized the necessity to speak of things which took place before Jesus and His disciples shortly before the transfiguration took place. The order of these things was recorded the same by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

- (1) Jesus asked His disciples who men were saying He is.
- (2) Jesus taught His disciples that He would go to Jerusalem and suffer, be killed, and raise again on the third day.
- (3) Jesus taught them the requirements of being true disciples.
- (4) Jesus told that some who were then present, would not taste death until they had seen the Son of man coming in His kingdom. ( I will read each account.)

*Matthew 16:28: Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*

*Mark 9:1: And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Lord coming in his kingdom.*

*Luke 9:27: But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.*

Jesus did many things during His short stay on earth. So much that we find this final statement recorded in the Gospel according To John:

*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. (John 21:25)*

We know that for much of the Lord's earthly life we have no record. The scriptures however, tell us of things He did on more than one occasion. He showed His power many times by working miracles, He showed His superior knowledge by teaching many things. Then there are those things that while Jesus was here that He did only once.

Romans 6:8-10: *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

*For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

Hebrews 9:11&12 says: *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Hebrews 9: 24-28 : *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

*Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;*

*For then must he have often suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18: *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*

When Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain and was transfigured before their eyes, there were marvelous things that happened, and as far as we know from scriptural record, this was something He did one time during His earthly life.

In summary of the prior events, when the Lord's earthly mission was nearing an end and the cross was drawing near, when gathered with His disciples He asked them these questions: (Question number one.) Who do men say I am?

(Answer) Some say you're John the Baptist, some say your Elijah, others say your Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.

(Question number two.) But who do you say that I am? Peter was the one who spoke up, and his answer was; You're the Christ, the Son of the living God.

I'm sure that answer pleased the Lord. But it would seem almost immediately after that acknowledgment, He tells them that He was going to go to Jerusalem and suffer, and be killed, and raise again the third day. The Apostle Peter, the same one who was quick to speak without hesitation and acknowledge Him as the Christ, rebuked Jesus for saying that. Now we know that didn't please the Lord because He said to Peter, Get thee behind me Satan, thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Notice what Jesus taught them, that He was going to Jerusalem to die and be raised again the third day. Peter must have missed the part of being raised again. His response was not anything like; well you will only be dead for three days!

From all accounts, it would be easy to assume that when the Lord was asking questions or giving instructions, the other disciples had become accustomed to Peter being the first one to speak.

Now they find themselves in a situation where not only have they been told what is going to happen to Jesus, but they have heard Him call their spokesman Satan.

Now He tells them if they're going to follow Him, they have to take up the cross of self denial. A cross was something people died on. Jesus told them if you're going to be my disciples you're going to have to die to yourself, and live for me.

I believe from their circumstances we can get an idea of what their mood would have been. Now, let's go up the mountain!!

*Matthew 17: 1-3: And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,*

*And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

*And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

*Mark 9: 2-4: And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves, and he was transfigured before them.*

*And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth could white them.*

*And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.*

*Luke 9: 28-31: And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took*

*Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.*

*And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.*

*And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias.*

*Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.*

Exodus 3:1-5: God spoke to Moses from out of the midst of a burning bush at Mt. Horeb.

In Exodus 19&20, we are told of Moses and the children of Israel coming to the wilderness of Sinai and making camp at the foot of the mountain. Moses went up the mountain, and the Lord spoke to him giving him instructions for the children of Israel.

They saw God descend upon Mt Sinai in fire and smoke like the smoke of a furnace, and heard God speak vocally to Moses. Moses went up to the top of the mountain and God gave to him the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 34: Moses went to the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, and from there God showed him the Promised Land, and told him again he would not be going over.

Moses died in the land of Moab, and God buried him in a valley there. And no man ever knew where. Jude 9 says: *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18, after about 3 years of no rain, went to the top of Mt. Carmel, dropped to his knees, and began to pray. He told his servant to go up and look toward the sea, so he came back and said there's nothing. Elijah said go again seven times. After the seventh time he returned and said that he had seen a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand, and the rain came.

1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19: Elijah, while fleeing for his life, travelled forty days and nights to Mt. Horeb, and took up lodging in a cave. The word of the Lord came to him and asked what he was doing there. Elijah told the Lord that the children of Israel had forsaken His covenant, thrown down His altars, slain His prophets with the sword, and were now seeking his life. God told him to go stand upon the mountain before the Lord, and as he did, the Lord passed by, and a strong wind tore through the mountain, and broke rocks into pieces, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then there was a great earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire a still small voice.

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2: In this chapter were told that when Elijah left this world, that there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire that parted Elijah and Elisha, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven, and though the sons of the prophets felt the need to



make a search, in case the Spirit of the Lord had just taken Elijah up and cast him upon a mountain, or maybe in a valley, after nagging Elisha to allow them to go, he consented, and fifty men held a three day search and didn't find a trace of Elijah.

So, Moses and Elijah had powerful mountain experiences in the presence of God during their lifetime, however, it's my belief that for both of them, their greatest mountain top experience didn't happen during their earthly lives, but came later.

Moses died and went to heaven, and his body was buried, and no one knew where. Elijah went to heaven in a whirlwind, and no one could ever find his body. And both of these events took place many years before Jesus was born into this world.

Yet when Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain and transfigured before their eyes, both Moses and Elijah were invited, and made an appearance, and talked with the Lord!

Matthew 22:32, Mark 12:27, Luke 20:38 :God is not the God of the dead; He is the God of the living!!!!

Exodus 33:18: *And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*

Exodus 33: 20-23: *And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*

*And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:*

*And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand whild I pass by:*

*And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.*

I believe when Jesus took these men up that mountain, it was a dark time for them. Jesus had told them He would be put to death. It seems they just were not able to bear such news. It was likely a trying time for the Lord as well, because they didn't get it! I imagine that Jesus took no pleasure in what he had to say to Peter. So Jesus took them with Him and went up on the mountain to pray, as Luke recorded. Given the fact that Luke said the disciples were heevely with sleep, and that they had come down the next day, that they were on the mountain at night. Jesus was up there praying, AND HE LIT UP THE MOUNTAIN! Glistening means: To lighten forth, to be radiant. I'm sure the Lord wasn't wearing anything fancy, just very common clothing, but when he transfigured, it even affected His raiment. RIGHT NOW JESUS IS LIGHTING UP HEAVEN!!!!

Jesus had glory before this world . (John 17: 4&5) *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

He had glory before He came in the flesh. However Philippians 2: 8 tells us: *And being*

*found in fashion as a man he **humbled** himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

When Jesus was transfigured, he didn't become something new, he just showed them what he already was and always had been!!

The Apostle Peter obviously wanted to prolong their stay. He said; (Luke 9:33)

*And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.*

During the time I prepared this subject, I read many things that different ones have written about Peter's statement. The only one I will comment on is one that said many people believe this statement to simply be one of Peter's many blunders, however, it's not, but actually what should have been said. The person who wrote such a thing must have missed the fact that Luke recorded that he said it **not knowing what he said**, or as Mark stated, for **he wist not what to say**, for they were sore afraid, or as Matthew wrote, while he yet spake,, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him.